

United States Secretary of State's Innovation Award for the Empowerment of Women and Girls

The U.S. Secretary's Innovation Award for the Empowerment of Women and Girls seeks to find and bring to scale the most pioneering approaches to the political, economic and social empowerment of women and girls around the globe. Each year, two awardees will be selected by a prominent panel of jury and will receive up to \$500,000 to expand on their innovations. Funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, the award is part of the State Department's continuing emphasis on public-private partnerships, and is administered by its Office of Global Women's Issues.

The purpose of this announcement is to invite interested parties to submit a concept paper that describes innovations that have proven to have a positive impact on the lives of women and girls politically, socially, or economically. The concept paper should: (1) describe the innovation, (2) how it has been successful, and, (3) how it can be supported and enlarged with additional financial support to empower women and girls in their communities. Concept papers can be submitted either by individuals or by non-governmental organizations. There are no restrictions as to citizenship or country of residency.

All concept papers will be reviewed by State Department staff, and selected applicants will be invited to submit full proposals. The full proposal will include detailed implementation and budget plans. A jury panel, co-chaired by Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verveer and Rockefeller Foundation President Judith Rodin, will assist in the selection of two award winners in 2010. The final awardees will be invited to attend an award ceremony at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., and each will receive a grant of up to \$500,000 to fund their project.

Concept Papers

Concept papers are due by June 21, 2010, to SGWIRFPInnovation@state.gov. The concept paper should be a short, informal proposal that should not exceed five (5) double-spaced pages. It should describe a potential solution to challenge(s) facing women and girls, including, but not limited to, the areas of poverty, legal and customary constraints, health, education, violence, food security, or climate change. The innovation could be a tool to empower women and girls socially, economically, politically, legally and/or normatively. The paper also needs to explain how the innovation could be replicated, scaled up, and made sustainable.

Interested applicants should go to the U.S. Embassy Algiers website www.algiers.usembassy.gov to apply.